



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

February 7, 2013

MICHAEL F. CHILDERS, TREASURER  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN  
110 KING ST STE 203  
MADISON, WI 53703

**Response Due Date**  
**03/14/2013**

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00019331

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (11/27/2012 - 12/31/2012)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following **13** item(s):

1. The totals listed on Line(s) 6(c), 7, 11(a)(iii), 11(c), 11(d), 17, 19, 20, 21(a)(i), 21(a)(ii), 21(b), 21(c), 30(a)(i), 30(a)(ii), 30(b), 30(c), 31 and 32, Column B of the Summary and Detailed Summary Page(s) appear to be incorrect. Column B figures for the Summary and Detailed Summary Pages should equal the sum of the Column B figures on your previous report and the Column A figures on this report. Please file an amendment to your report to correct the Column B discrepancies for this report and all subsequent report(s) which may be affected by this correction. Note that Column B should reflect only the Calendar Year-to-Date totals. (2 U.S.C. § 434(b))
2. Your calculations for Line 8 appear to be incorrect. Cash on hand at the close of the current reporting period should always equal the closing calendar year to date cash on hand amount. Please provide the corrected total on the Summary Page. (2 U.S.C. § 434(b))
3. Your calculations for Line(s) 11(a)(iii), Column B appear to be incorrect. Please provide the correct totals on the Detailed Summary Page. (2 U.S.C. § 434)(b)(7))
4. Schedule A, supporting Line 12 of your report discloses memos totaling \$11,645.15 from "WI Party Victory Fund," that appear to be received through joint fundraising efforts. However, "WI Party Victory Fund" is not disclosed as a joint fundraising representative on your Statement of Organization. Please

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amend your Statement of Organization to disclose the joint fundraising representative or amend your report to provide clarifying information. (11 CFR §102.2)

**5.** Schedule A of your 2012 reports combined discloses transfers totaling \$197,000.00 from "ASDC Dollars for Democrats," \$144,359.33 from "Baldwin WI Victory Fund 2012" and \$192,799.68 from "Swing State Victory Fund," which are joint fundraising committees affiliated with your committee. The sum of memo Schedule A is less than the total amount transferred. Please note that the sum of memo Schedule A supporting a transfer(s) from a joint fundraising committee should be greater than or equal to the amount of the transfer(s).

Each participating committee shall report its share for net proceeds received from the joint fundraising committee as a transfer-in on Schedule A. A memo Schedule A must be provided to itemize your committee's share of the gross contributions received through the joint fundraiser. The memo schedule should itemize each individual who has contributed an aggregate in excess of \$200 during the calendar year and provide the amount of unitemized contributions received. In addition, the memo schedule should itemize your committee's share of all contributions from political committees, regardless of amount. (11 CFR § 102.17(c)(8)(i)(B)) Please amend your report to include the missing Schedule A or provide an explanation for this apparent discrepancy.

**6.** Your 2012 reports combined disclose memo Schedule A's totaling \$9,839.15 for "WI Party Victory Fund" and \$11,1125.50 for "DSP Joint Victory Fund," which appear to be your committee's share of the gross contributions received from a joint fundraising committee. However, there are no corresponding transfers-in from the related joint fundraising committee disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 12 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please amend you report(s) to clarify this apparent discrepancy. (11 CFR §102.17(c)(8)(i)(B))

**7.** You have made disbursements for "printing- volunteer exempt," which you have characterized as exempt activities. In order for an activity to be classified as exempt, it must meet the following conditions: (1) For slate cards and sample ballots: it names at least three candidates running for election to any public office, it is not distributed through public political advertising (including broadcast media, newspapers, magazines, and billboards), the content is limited to the identification of each candidate, the office or position currently held, the office sought and party affiliation, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (2) For campaign materials: the

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activity is conducted on behalf of the party's nominees in the general election, the materials are distributed by volunteers--not through public political advertising, the party committee does not use materials purchased by the national party committee or money transferred from the national committee to purchase materials, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, a payment from a non-federal campaign to help pay for the materials does not exceed its allocated share of the expenses, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (3) For voter drives: the activity is on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, the activity does not involve the use of public political advertising such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards or direct mail, phone banks are operated by volunteers (although paid professionals may design the system, develop calling instructions and train supervisors), the party committee does not use funds transferred by the national party committee for voter drive activities, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, and the cost allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds. (11 CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149)

If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above, and if any portion of the expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified candidates, this amount must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23, 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate. Please provide the Commission with a more detailed explanation of these activities.

**8.** On Schedule(s) H4 supporting Line(s) 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have not included the full name and/or mailing address for several vendors listed. Please amend your report accordingly. (11 CFR §§104.10(b)(4) and 104.17(b)(3))

**9.** Schedule H4 of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for "reimbursement- see memo." Please be advised that when itemizing reimbursements to individuals for goods or services, payment to the original vendors must be itemized as memo entries regardless of amount. Each memo entry must include the name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and purpose of the original purchase must be provided. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule H4, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. (11 CFR § 104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinions 1992-1 and 1996-20, footnote 3)

**10.** Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment(s) for "intern

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stipend/wages" and "stipend." Please be advised that a political committee may maintain a petty cash fund out of which it may make expenditures not in excess of \$100 to any person per purchase or transaction. (11 CFR §102.11) However, if this expenditure(s) represents an apparent reimbursement(s) to an individual(s) for apparent travel and subsistence advances in which the total amount reimbursed exceeds \$500, there are additional reporting requirements. Please provide clarifying information regarding this activity and amend your report to include any missing information as noted below.

When the reimbursement amount to staff for travel and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by committee staff that make up the reimbursement have to be itemized as memo entries regardless of the amount. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and an adequate purpose. Schedule H4 should clearly identify which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. (11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinion 1996-20, footnote 3)

**11.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "FICA Match," "health insurance," "health insurance reimbursement," "insurance," "payroll- see memos" and "salary." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**12.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "robocalls." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote,

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support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**13.** On Schedule H6 supporting Line 30(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have failed to check the appropriate allocated activity or event category box for the payment(s) made to "GRS Consulting LLC." Please amend your report to disclose the appropriate category. (11 CFR §300.36(b)(2)(i))

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

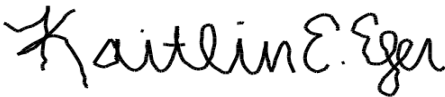
Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please

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contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlin E. Eger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaitlin Eger  
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division